

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

25X4

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 27 February 1951

SUBJECT Procurement of Rails by Dismantling
of Tracks

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ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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The following decree was published in the Soviet Zone Railroad Bulletin of 10 December 1950:

"TO: All Regional Railroad Headquarters in the German Democratic Republic;

"The fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan requires that all the construction projects envisaged in the investment plan be carried out. The critical shortage of rails may necessitate use of rails already laid and their installation at other places, where they would be of greater economic value. For this reason the regional railroad headquarters will examine with the utmost care the question of which lines in their districts may be dismantled for the procurement of rail material without disturbing vital operations. Both the smallest line sections and entire lines may be earmarked for dismantling. Regardless of decisions to be taken by us, regional railroad headquarters will name all tracks, the capacity of which is presently being utilized only to a small degree.

"This is an urgent request, and the result of the examinations made will have to be communicated to us by telegram by 15 December 1950.

(signed) Herrmann. 18

Comment. This railroad decree characterizes the acute shortage of rail material in the Soviet Zone of Germany. This shortage has been the greatest obstacle to all railroad construction projects.

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